



- 1 ANDREW CREWS
 - 2 DAVID BARRETT
 - 3 MICHAEL SANTALAB
 - 4 STEPHEN EAGLETON
 - 5 RICHARD PLESA
 - 6 JOE VRKIC
 - 7 JACOB BURNS
 - 8 WALTER ARDONE
 - 9 MILE STERJOVSKI
 - 10 JOEL GRIFFITHS
 - 11 STEVE BERRY
 - 12 STEVE LAYBUTT
 - 13 MILAN BLAGOJEVIC
 - 14 JOHN ANGELUCCI
 - 15 DANNY TOWNSEND
 - 16 MARK BYRNES
 - 17 DANIEL KUKUCKA
 - 18 LACHLAN CAMPBELL
 - 19 MATT THOMPSON
 - 20 BARNEY SMITH
 - 21 AHMAD ELRICH
 - 23 JOHN GIBSON
 - 28 PETER BENNETT
 - 30 MIKE GIBSON
- COACH: DAVID MITCHELL



- 1 JOHN CRAWLEY
- 2 RAY YOUNIS
- 3 MARK RACKER
- 4 VELIMIR KUPRESAK
- 5 EDDIE BOSNAR
- 6 VINCE SAVOCA
- 7 MIRKO JURILJ
- 8 NAHUEL ARRARTE
- 9 MARIO JERMAN
- 10 ANTE MORIC
- 11 TOM PONDELJAK
- 12 TOM MARIC
- 13 MATHEW ZEC
- 14 KAIN RASTALL
- 15 AYTEC GENC
- 16 JOE MORIC
- 17 NICK BOSEVSKI
- 18 STEVEN BOZINOVSKI
- 19 GREG SARIC
- 20 STEVE TOLIOS
- 25 ANTE DEAK

COACH: DAVID RATCLIFFE

TODAY'S MATCH OFFICIALS

REFEREE: EDDIE LENNIE
 ASSISTANT REFEREES: ALEX SPIROSKI • BRIAN SEYMOUR
 4TH OFFICIAL: JONATHAN STREATER

OTHER WEEKEND FIXTURES

ADELAIDE FORCE VS FOOTBALL KINGZ
 CANBERRA COSMOS VS NEWCASTLE BREAKERS
 BRISBANE STRIKERS VS SOUTH MELBOURNE

GIPPSLAND FALCONS VS NORTHERN SPIRIT
 PERTH GLORY VS CARLTON
 MARCONI STALLIONS VS WOLLONGONG WOLVES
 MELBOURNE KNIGHTS VS SYDNEY OLYMPIC

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Volume 6 Nov 26 1999 \$2



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PARRAMATTA POWER VS SYDNEY UNITED FRIDAY 26 NOVEMBER 1999 7.30PM

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Power Colour
102-104 Victoria Road
Parramatta 2150
Ph: 9890 9477

Printed by:
Agency Printing
15 Prince William Drive
Seven Hills 2147
Ph: 9674 1922

WELCOME TO PARRAMATTA **POWER** SOCCER CLUB

Registered Office:
10 Grose Street North Parramatta 2151 Phone: 02 9630 9777 Fax: 02 9630 9555

What a funny game we play!

Going into the Perth game, we were sitting very close to the bottom of the table, our next two opponents were two of the competition's heavyweights, and we were missing two very good players in Mile Sterjovski and Jacob Burns to the Olyroos.

But what a difference two weeks makes. Comprehensive wins over Perth and Carlton, both by 3-1 scorelines, has lifted us back up near the top six and in a fairly strong position.

My main concern now is to make sure we can continue in this frame of mind, and keep the wins ticking over. The players have performed tremendously to beat two very good opponents, but the hard work is not over and in a way, we have a much tougher game this week.

Let me welcome David Ratcliffe and his Sydney United side to Parramatta Stadium, to a clash which will have emotions running fairly high.

After the events leading into the season, with most of last year's Sydney United minor premiership winning side, moving across to Parramatta, this fixture has the potential to develop into one of the biggest rivalries in the competition.

Under difficult circumstances, my good friend David Ratcliffe has put together a side, that has shown they will be more than competitive throughout the season.

There are no expectations on them, similar to us last season, with most of the pressure on us. However I am confident that my players can handle it, as they have shown in the past couple of weeks, where wins were necessary.

The wins in the last two weeks has highlighted a couple of things. Firstly, the depth in the squad, and secondly that perseverance pays off.

The confidence is building in the players and the competition for places is fierce.

With Mile and Jacob coming back from Olyroo duty, it is going to be a tough decision on who will be in the squad. I am now in the fortunate position where I have a near full compliment of players to choose for tonight's match.

As for you the supporters, your support continues to get better with every match and the atmosphere at the Perth game was fantastic.

I have no doubts that a good crowd will be on hand to witness this match, and I know the players are eagerly awaiting the game. To show their appreciation, they are determined to try and give you another win tonight.

Just finally, I would like to offer my congratulations to Mark Byrnes and the Joeys on their outstanding performances at the Under 17 World Championships. They have just reached the semi finals and are a good chance of making the final. I along with you all wish him and the team all the best.

Enjoy the game!

Dave Mitchell

Cover: Parra Power supporters getting behind the team against Perth Glory.



CONGRATULATIONS

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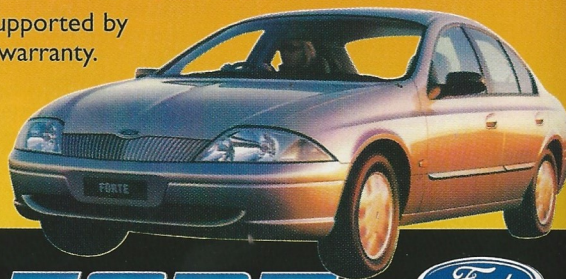


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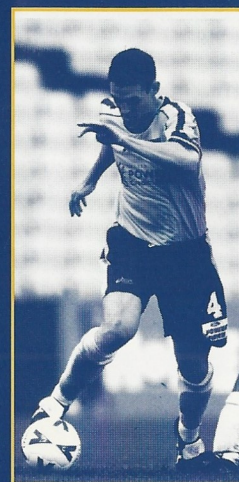
POWER & THE PASSION

CLUB NEWS

Parramatta Power Marketing Manager Lawrie McKinna, announced the signing of Electra, as another major sponsor for the season. Electra, who specialise in air-conditioners, will have their name featured on the back of the Power shirts, underneath the players number. The deal is for one-year.



Mark Byrnes (pictured) continues to impress for the Australian Joey's at the World Junior Championships in New Zealand. As captain of the side, he has led them into the semi finals (at time of writing) of the championships, the best effort at this level by an Australian side. Mark has also played a vital role, with some superb displays at the back, as well as scoring the winning goal against Germany, whom many considered the pre-tournament favourites.



Power captain Richard Plesa, had his comeback into the first team restricted to one match, after suffering a hamstring injury at training. His was expected to miss two to three matches, starting with the Perth game but with the team winning important matches against Glory and Carlton, Richard may find it difficult to get his spot back this time.

Mile Sterjovski and Jacob Burns return from the Olyroos short tour of Tunisia, where they played two matches. The team won their first match and drew the second, after playing the majority of the match with just 10 men. Mile played in both matches, while Jacob missed the first game but played in the second.

Andrew Crews, has without a doubt been one of the Power's shining lights so far this season. However he took his game to a new level against Carlton, playing after injuring his middle finger in the warm-up. It appears that he has broken it, but he is determined to play against United.



POWER WEBSITE

www.parrapower.com.au

- ◆ Results & tables
- ◆ Statistics
- ◆ News and gossip
- ◆ Player profiles
- ◆ Match updates
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For the information of members and their guests.

CAPTAIN'S COMMENTS



Two terrific victories have certainly made life at Parramatta Power a little easier, after a frustrating start to the season.

We were faced with two pressure cooker games against Perth and Carlton, and came through them with flying colours. The performances were highly impressive against two teams that are considered championship contenders.

However we cannot rest on our laurels and I believe tonight's match will be one of our toughest matches for the season.

There will be plenty tension out there, and United will be extremely pumped up for this match.

We cannot afford to be complacent and must continue to string the wins together, in order to show we are going to be a force this season.

The depth in the squad has come to the fore, with several players staking their claims for a permanent spot in the team.

Coach David Mitchell will have a tough week in deciding who will be in his squad with Olyroo players Mile Sterjovski and Jacob Burns back from overseas, and available.

I myself, after being out for two weeks with a hamstring injury, am doing everything I can to be fit for tonight's match. It will be touch and go but I have been looking forward to this match and desperately want to play.

I had many good years at United and last season's minor premiership was a highlight in my soccer career.

As far as I am concerned what happened in the off-season is history, and I want to get on with helping Parramatta Power achieve success this year.

A special mention to Andrew Crews for his courageous performance against Carlton. In the warm-up before the game, Andrew broke his finger, but decided to play and kept us in the game after a slow start, which was dominated by Carlton.

On behalf of the players, we would also like to congratulate Mark Byrnes for his tremendous efforts in leading the Under 17's into the semi finals of the Under 17 World Championships in New Zealand.

Hopefully by the tonight's game they will have overcome the USA and made it through to the final.

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John Forwood
MANAGING DIRECTOR

"THE POWER & THE PASSION"



UPCOMING MATCHES

Dec 5	South Melbourne*	
	Bob Jane Stadium	6.00pm
Dec 10	Newcastle Breakers*	
	Parramatta Stadium	7.30pm
Dec 19	Sydney United*	
	Sydney Utd Sports Centre	6.00pm
Dec 28	Sydney Olympic*	
	Parramatta Stadium	7.30pm
Jan 2	Wollongong Wolves*	
	Brandon Park	6.30pm

* Subject to change due to possible TV commitments



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PLAYER PROFILE

DANNY TOWNSEND

1999-2000 SEASON

DATE OF BIRTH: APRIL 29, 1977

STARSIGN: TAURUS

NICKNAME:

HEIGHT: 5'7"

WEIGHT: 65KG

MARITAL STATUS: SINGLE

OCCUPATION: SPORTS SPONSORSHIP ANALYST

PREVIOUS CLUB/S: SYDNEY UNITED, MANLY
WARRINGAH, BELROSE RAIDERS

PLAYING POSITION & NUMBER: WIDE MIDFIELD & 15

NSL CAREER GAMES: 32

NSL GOALS: 3

HOW LONG HAVE YOU PLAYED SOCCER: 15 YEARS

LEFT OR RIGHT FOOTED: RIGHT

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS: NONE

FAVOURITE HOLIDAY DESTINATION: TONGA

IF YOU WERE NOT A SOCCER PLAYER, WHAT WOULD YOU BE DOING:
A BASKETBALLER

WHAT IS THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE EVER BEEN GIVEN: NEVER GIVE UP

FAVOURITE TELEVISION PROGRAM: WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE

WHAT IS THE BEST CONCERT YOU'VE EVER SEEN: PENNYWISE AT 'THE
SANDS' NARRABEEN

**IF YOU COULD BE ANYONE ELSE FOR A DAY, WHO WOULD YOU MOST
LIKE TO BE:** BILL CLINTON

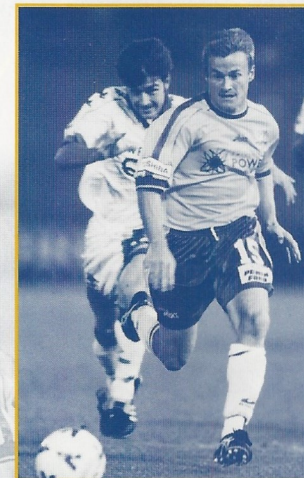
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THEY BE:** KATE, MY GIRLFRIEND, MOHAMMED ALI, NOSTRADAMUS, BOB HAWKE

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Congratulations!



If this is you circled in this picture then you are the lucky winner of the Parramatta Power Super Supporter competition.

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For your chance to be a Super Supporter winner watch this space in each programme to see if it is

YOU!



WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS

If you have something to say on the **POWER** or any other soccer issue, we want to hear from you.

Wish someone a happy birthday, make a suggestion or send a photo* of yourself with your favourite player. *They are all welcome.*

All you have to do, is write a short letter, addressed to the:

**Editor, PowerPlay,
10 Grose Street,
North Parramatta NSW 2151**

We will endeavour to print all letters but space is limited so remember to keep them fairly short. Letters that carry abuse or use derogatory words will not be printed.

* if you want photo's returned, please write a return address on your letter.

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
BRISBANE STRIKERS	8	5	3	0	12	5	18
SYDNEY OLYMPIC	8	5	2	1	13	6	17
CARLTON	8	4	3	1	14	6	15
WOLLONGONG WOLVES	8	4	3	1	17	13	15
MARCONI STALLIONS	8	4	2	2	13	13	14
PERTH GLORY	8	3	3	2	16	10	12
SOUTH MELBOURNE	8	3	2	3	12	8	11
CANBERRA COSMOS	8	3	2	3	12	9	11
PARRAMATTA POWER	8	3	2	3	14	13	11
FOOTBALL KINGZ	8	2	2	4	12	17	8
SYDNEY UNITED	8	2	2	4	5	10	8
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS	8	1	4	3	10	13	7
ADELAIDE FORCE	8	1	4	3	5	9	7
NORTHERN SPIRIT	8	2	1	5	7	13	7
GIPPSLAND FALCONS	8	1	3	4	4	10	6
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	8	2	0	6	7	17	6

NSL LEADING GOALSCORERS

6 PAUL FOSTER (BRISBANE)
5 JOEL GRIFFITHS (POWER)
5 ZELJKO BABIC (MARCONI)
5 DANIEL WATKINS (CANBERRA)
4 ANDREW MARTIN (CARLTON)
4 MICHAEL CURCIJA (STH MELB)
4 DON BOUTSIANIS (PERTH)

4 PABLO CARDOZO (OLYMPIC)
4 ALEX MORIERA (CARLTON)
4 STUART YOUNG (WOLLONGONG)
4 ESALA MASI (WOLLONGONG)
4 SASO PETROVSKI (WOLLONGONG)
3 PETER DWYER (BRISBANE)
3 ARCHIE THOMPSON (CARLTON)

3 WYNTON RUFER (KINGZ)
3 BOBBY DESPOTOVSKI (PERTH)
3 IVAN ERGIC (PERTH)
3 ALISTAIR EDWARDS (PERTH)
3 JOHN BUONAVOLGIA (NEWCASTLE)
3 JOHN ANASTASIADIS (STH MELB)

YOUTH TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
PARRAMATTA POWER	7	6	1	0	26	4	19
AIS	8	5	2	1	30	8	17
SYDNEY OLYMPIC	6	4	2	0	13	4	14
QAS	7	4	1	2	22	8	13
NORTHERN SPIRIT	6	4	1	1	11	6	13
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS	8	3	1	4	12	13	10
OLYMPIC ACADEMY	6	3	0	3	15	22	9
SPIRIT COLTS	6	2	2	2	8	8	8
ACTAS	6	2	2	2	11	13	8
NSWIS	6	2	1	3	8	7	7
WOLLONGONG WOLVES	6	2	1	3	5	9	7
SYDNEY UNITED	4	2	1	1	5	10	7
MARCONI STALLIONS	5	2	0	3	3	11	6
NEWCASTLE COLTS	7	1	1	5	8	16	6
UNITED COLTS	9	1	2	6	11	20	5
MARCONI COLTS	6	0	2	4	3	18	2
WOLVES COLTS	5	0	1	4	4	18	1



IMPORTANT NOTICE

- Entry inside the perimeter fence of the playing area is prohibited at all times and offenders will be prosecuted.
 - All spectators are requested to vacate the ground within 15 minutes of the end of the final game.
 - Police may be requested to remove any unauthorised person who remain after the stipulated time.
 - The setting alight of, or the ignition or discharging of any type of object, including fireworks, signal or smoke flares, is strictly prohibited.
- OFFENDERS WILL BE ARRESTED AND CHARGED**

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Every National Soccer League season, a new soccer star rises from obscurity to hit the headlines for his club.

Many of these players have pursued successful careers both here in Australia and overseas, while many have faded away, unable to cope with their rapid rise to success.

This season will be no exception and Parramatta Power's coach David Mitchell might have unearthed yet another player with the potential to go all the way.

18-year old Ahmad Elrich, having made his debut against Canberra Cosmos as a second half substitute, has gone from strength to strength since then, and made everyone sit up and take notice.

"I was shocked and very nervous," Ahmad recalls, after he was told he would be in the squad. "I certainly wasn't expecting it when it happened."

But Mitchell knew he had something special, the previous week taking Ahmad with the squad to Adelaide to experience life as a first team player.

"I was surprised when told I would be going to Adelaide, but it was a eye-opening experience for me to see what the players were feeling before, during and after the game. By watching them I knew what to expect when I did get into the squad."

But nothing can prepare you for biggest moment to date in your career, like your debut game in the big leagues.

"I was extremely nervous, but I was just concentrating on getting a good first touch and I knew that would settle me down. Luckily for me I did get a good first touch."

It was a big moment in the young man's soccer career, that started when he was just five, and had seen him play all his soccer in the local area.

"I had played with Parramatta Eagles since the age of nine, progressing through the junior leagues and then the Youth League. I played one season of Under 18s and this year made seven appearances for the first team."

But it was an approach by one of Mitchell's players at Sydney United last season, Abbas Saad, that saw Ahmad come to the Power.

"Abbas came to me, saying he had this player with lots of potential and that I should have a look at him," said Mitchell, who had just walked into the room.

"It didn't take me long to work out he was right after seeing him in a trial game against Macarthur."

Ahmad adds, "I had always looked up to Abbas as a player, not only because he was Lebanese, but also because he was a very good player. I was lucky that I got to know him at the start of the year and he has helped me lot since."

Following his debut, Ahmad kept his place on the bench for the trip to Brisbane and laid on the teams only goal with a great pass to Mile Sterjovski. His performance after coming on, saw him earn his first starting place against Gippsland.

"I was probably more nervous for this (Gippsland) game as I was starting. But the other players were great and really made it much easier for me.

They are all top blokes and I have no problems asking the more experienced players for advice," an attribute which Mitchell believes will make him a very good player.

"It was one of things I noticed quickly about him. He was keen, enthusiastic and always listening to instructions very closely. You need to do that at his age because if you don't, you usually find it is those players who never make it."

So far Ahmad has coped very well to the pace of the game at this level, but readily admits there are still many things he has to improve on.

"The faster pace is the first thing you notice at this level. Your first touch also has to be spot on

because if it's not, most times you will lose the ball. You also need to be much smarter in your play and positioning, as you can be found out very quickly by the opposition if you are not."

Easily his best game to date, was in the 3-1 win over Perth Glory two weeks ago, where he laid off the last pass for two of the three goals, the second a superb cross that landed perfectly for Jon Angelucci to score his second and the teams third.

This performance certainly caught the eye of many people and he is quickly becoming a crowd favourite of the Power supporters.

"It is nice, I don't mind it. At first it was a bit weird, people asking me for my autograph but I suppose you have to get used to it."

While Ahmad aims to be his own player and not model himself on anybody, he is big fan of Manchester United's David Beckham.

"Crossing the ball is probably my best attribute. I practice them regularly, trying to whip them over in a similar way to what Beckham does.

"I would love to be able to consistently cross a ball like he does."

While for now, he is content to make a name for himself with Parramatta Power and maybe get the chance to represent Australia with the Youth squad, his burning desire is to play in the English Premier League one day and also make the Socceroos (having already knocked back the opportunity to represent the Lebanon Olympic team).

However the last word on Ahmad will go to his coach.

"He is getting better and better with each match, and maturing as a player. He has tremendous pace and stamina, and is a great crosser of the ball for someone so young. Once he learns to read the game better at this level, I have no doubts he will be a very good player

Sports Traineeships



Winning Team

Sport traineeships safeguard the dedication and future of young Australians who have chosen to pursue careers in sport.

They also represent wonderful opportunities for organisations to train new staff for their business, ensuring access to a pool of skilled people on which to draw in future years. Traineeships present an ideal situation which benefits everyone – trainees, employers, sporting clubs and the broad community.

The need for such a scheme has never been greater. Sport as an industry is booming, attracting unparalleled levels of business investment, sponsorship and media exposure. And in the lead-up to 2000 Olympics, which will bring worldwide focus on this country, Australia's remarkable success on the sporting field must be matched by increasingly higher performance standards in allied fields such as marketing, grounds maintenance, fitness training, hospitality, retail, administration and athlete career development.

Sport traineeships go a long way in helping to achieve this important goal and potential trainees and employers are commended to participate in this exciting initiative.

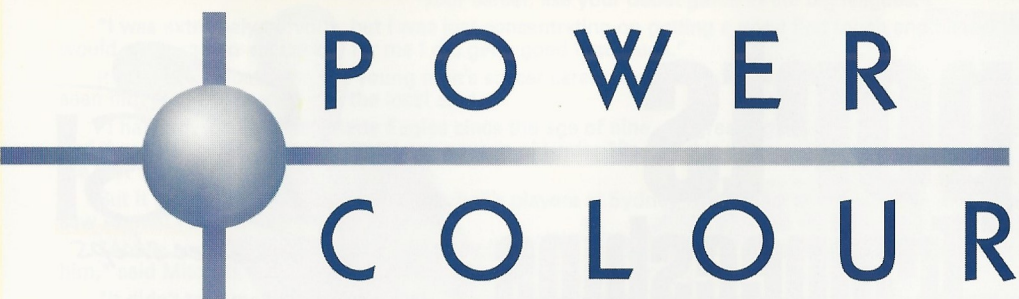
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MATCH REVIEW V PERTH GLORY

**Parramatta Power 3 (Griffiths 3, Angelucci 41, 74) bt
Perth Glory 1 (Edwards 49)**

Angelucci Makes Most of Opportunity

Jon Angelucci made the most of his first starting appearance of the season, with two goals in Parramatta Power's 3-1 win over Perth Glory at the 'Powerhouse'.

Replacing Mile Sterjovski, who is on Olyroo duty, Angelucci scored his goals in the 41st and 74th minutes, both close range efforts that gave his side breathing space at important times in the match.

Angelucci however was not the only star on the night, with Milan Blagojevic magnificent at the back. Andrew Crews first half display was outstanding, while Ahmid Elrich continues his impressive start to his NSL career, by setting up two of the goals.

However, while the Power were worthy winners, a special mention should go to Perth, who came for the sole purpose of winning the game, and played there part in what was a magnificent game of soccer.

But not for Crews effort in the first half, the Power could have found themselves behind, instead of being 2-0 up.

The Power finally started got off to a good start, when Joel Griffiths played a one-two with Elrich, and the in-form striker stroked his shot past Tony Franken.

However the goal didn't seem to worry the Glory and with Con Boutsianis in a goal hungry frame of mind, they created problems for the Power defence.

Both teams attacked with great enthusiasm, Crews tipping a Boutsianis header over the bar, while John Gibson had Franken at full stretch from a free kick.

Crews again denied Boutsianis, with a low down save in the 16th minute, while Angelucci should have had the Power two up ten minutes later but shot into the side-netting from close range.

The turning point in the match came five minutes before half-time, when Crews made a magnificent close range save to deny an Ivan Ergic shot from 10 metres.

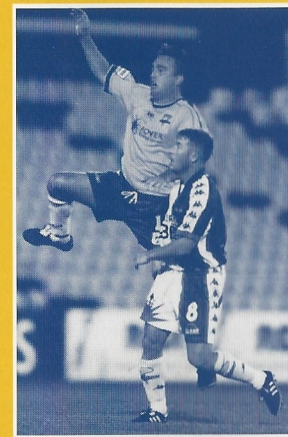
A minute later the Power did go 2-0 up, when Angelucci pounced on Gibson's miskicked shot, to slam home from 5 metres out.

Perth's response after the break was swift and Crews could only parry Kasey Wehrman's powerful shot into Alistair Edwards path, for a simple tap-in.

Both sides kept attacking with play going from end to end but it was a quick counter-attack by the Power that sealed the win in the 74th minute.

Walter Ardone found Elrich wide on the right, and the young midfielder swept upfield before crossing perfectly for the rampaging Angelucci, to touch beautifully past Franken.

Power's Best - Milan Blagojevic, Steve Berry, Jon Angelucci



Steve Berry flying high against Perth

V CARLTON

Parramatta Power 3 (Griffiths 40, J Gibson 42, Townsend 88) bt Carlton 1 (Moriera 89pen)

Parramatta Power made it two wins on the trot, as they accounted for the highly fancied Carlton outfit 3-1 at Olympic Park in Melbourne.

The win has now seen the Power jump to the edge of the top six and served notice that they intend being a threat this season.

The win was set up by an excellent performance in goals by Andrew Crews, who broke a finger in the warm up before the game, and two goals five minutes before the half time break.

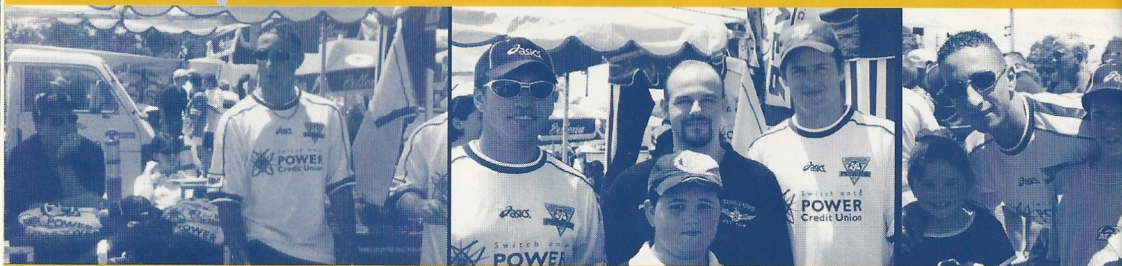
Joel Griffiths broke the deadlock in the 40th minute, slotting home his third goal in consecutive matches, and John Gibson scored two minutes later, to put the Power firmly in control.

Carlton's chance of a comeback were thwarted soon after the break when Lubo Lapsansky was controversially sent off, and a freakish goal by Danny Townsend two minutes from the end, sealed the win.

Carlton, who had their chances early in the match, scored a late consolation goal from the penalty spot, through striker Alex Moriera.

Power's Best - Andrew Crews, Joel Griffiths, Milan Blagojevic

OUT & ABOUT IN THE COMMUNITY BRITFEST



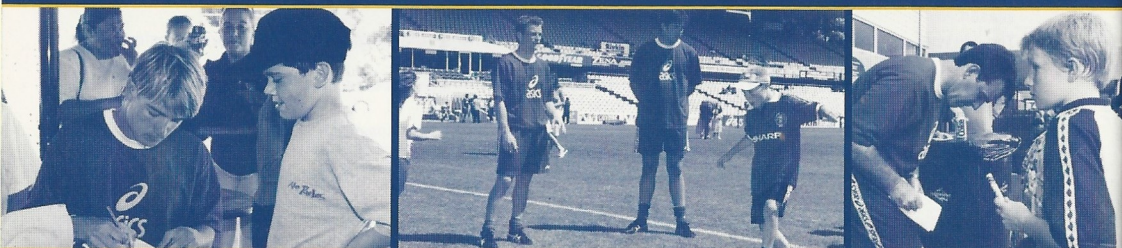
The entire Parramatta Power squad appeared at this years Britfest, a carnival day designed for ex-pat British people now in Australia. Britfest was held at Blacktown Showground on Sunday November 7 and was attended by over 10,000 people. Players took time out to meet fans, sign a few autographs and kick some balls around with the kids.



OPEN TRAINING SESSION



Parramatta Power fans enjoyed a rare opportunity to join in a training session on Saturday November 13. The Club hosted an open training session including a free sausage sizzle and all the kids who attended were invited to train with the players on the ground at Parramatta Stadium.



YOUTH TEAM

Youth Team Squad:

Burin Ahmedi
Ismael Arrarte
Travis Bardsley
Daniel Cabrera
Scott Dixon
Paul Down
Pat Gatt

John Kelso
Dwayne Pearson
Monte Pfrengle
Luke Roodenburg
Brendan Santalab
Lachlan Wright

Youth League Results

Round 7
Parramatta Power 4
(D Kukucka 2, M Thompson, L Roodenburg)
bt
Wollongong Colts 0

Round 8
Parramatta Power 3
(D Kukucka 14, M Thompson 67 pen/87 pen)
drew
Marconi Stallions Colts 3

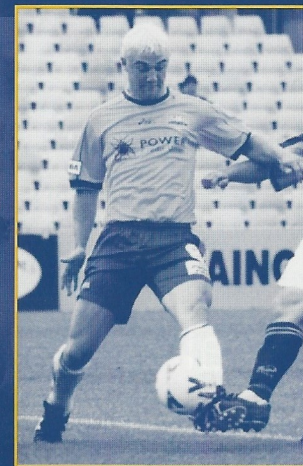
Power Goalscorers

6 Daniel Kukucka	2 Jon Angelucci
4 Matt Thompson	1 Mark Byrnes
3 Patt Gatt	1 Lachlan Wright
2 Ahmid Elrich	1 David Barrett
2 Danny Townsend	1 Luke Roodenburg
2 Steve Berry	

YOUTH PLAYER

PROFILE

Luke Roodenburg



Date of Birth: July 2, 1981

Nickname: Gattie

Height: 6'2

Weight: 78kg

Playing Position: Striker

Previous Club/s: Leichhardt Tigers

Honours: 1998 U/18 Super League Player of the Year

Favourite Soccer Team/s: Arsenal

Favourite Soccer Player/s: Dennis Bergkamp

What are your soccer ambitions: To get a first grade contract with Parramatta, and to go as far as I can.

Best advice you have received: 'Play with your heart' & 'Your only as good as your last game'

Favourite TV program: English Soccer

If you could be anyone else for a day, who would you most like to be:
Dennis Bergkamp

Name any 4 people you would invite to a private dinner party:
My girlfriend, Dennis Bergkamp, Eddie Murphy, & Jennifer Lopez

If you weren't a soccer player, what would you be doing:
A sports sales rep



MATCH PREVIEW V SYDNEY UNITED

This is the first game of what is undoubtedly going to be one of the fiercest rivalries of the season.

Last season Sydney United, despite all its off field dramas, defied all the critics to take out a most unlikely premiership and made the grand final.

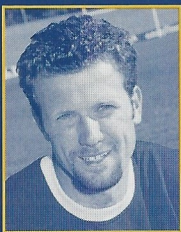
However Parramatta Power's acceptance into the league, saw firstly David Mitchell and Lawrie McKinna jump ship to the new team, and secondly almost the entire first grade squad.

That has stirred up some real feeling amongst the United faithful and they would like nothing better than to beat us at our new home.

New United coach David Ratcliffe, has put together a competitive squad, who like last years United squad, has a point to prove.

We talk to club captain Richard Plesa (pictured) who spent many years at United about tonight's game.

Power Play (PP) - Our performances over the last two weeks have been superb. What do you put that down to?



Richard Plesa (RP) - I would have to say hard work, belief in ourselves, and a settled training venue has added stability. We showed enough against Gippsland to suggest we were getting better, and that has carried over to the last two matches. I also think we wanted to show that we were as good as Perth and Carlton, who were being touted as potential champions. The two games also showed the depth we have, with Mile Sterjovski and Jacob Burns away and myself out through injury. The players that came in have all played very well, giving our coach David Mitchell, a nice headache in selecting the squad for tonight's game.

PP - Competition for places is pretty competitive at the moment. Is that also helping?

RP - Everyone wants to play. There are only 14 places available each week and there are over 20 players in the squad. Those players who get their chance, are keen to take it, which has been in evidence in the last two weeks. While the players that don't get picked up naturally disappointed, they would prefer the team to keep winning, and they know that their turn will come and when it does, they have to make the most of it.

PP - Is there going to be much emotion out there?

RP - More than likely. Not so much from their players, but their supporters will be extra keen for them to win. I am not sure if I will be playing, having missed the last two matches through injury but I know as far as we are concerned, this is another important game that we must win, to keep the momentum going in our favour. Both sides will be pumped for a big performance, and I suspect there will be a good crowd on hand, which will only add to the atmosphere.

PP - David Ratcliffe has had to start a team from scratch. What do you make of their team?

RP - He has done a good job so far. There is a lot of experience with players such as Velimir Kupresak and Aytek Genc, while Tom Pondeljak is very dangerous. I have heard good things about Nahuel Arrarte, mainly from his brother Ismael, who plays in our youth team. Seriously though, he is an exceptional young talent. I played with Mario Jerman and Ante Moric and know what they can do in front of goals, so we are going to have a good fight on our hands.

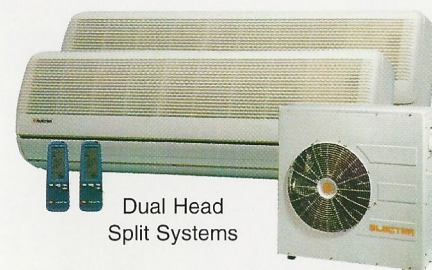
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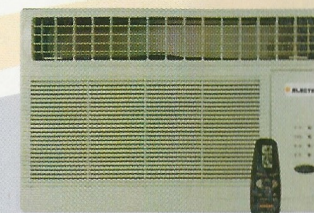
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